(b) if so, the States in which the Central Para-military Forces are working under the Army; and

(c) by when the Para-military Forces will get operational autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Central Para-military Forces are placed under operational control of the Army only when it is so required in view of the compulsions of prevailing security scenario or developments on border. In order to maintain unity of Command it is not considered appropriate to grant operational autonomy to the Central Para-military Forces while functioning under the Operational Control of the Army. It is not in public interest to divulge further details in this regard.

Non-Brahmins Priest in Temples

†1552. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a division bench of Kerala High Court has pronounced a decision that only Brahmins are not entitled to become Priests in Temples but any qualified non-brahmin who is well versed in traditional rituals and religious rites can be made a priest in a Temple with reference to Article 17 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether Central Government propose to implement said decision in Temples, in the country where trustee is the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the policy to be adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Union Government.

Population explosion

†1553. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present population of India and how does it compare

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.